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Date: 3/12/2012

GAIN Report Number:

Israel

Post: Tel Aviv

Avian Influenza - A March 9th, 2012 update

Report Categories:

Pest/Disease Occurrences

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Report Highlights:

On March 8th, 2012 the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) confirmed that a first case of Avian Influenza (H5N1) was found in a turkey farm in Moshav Shalva (Ashkelon area in the southern part of Israel). The farm has three turkey houses that contain 11,000 eight week-old turkeys. Out of the total, 500 contaminated birds were found dead on March 8th and the rest (some 10,500) were destroyed by the Israeli Veterinary Services in order to prevent the spread of infection. Farms in the vicinity of the infected site or within a 10 km radius are being monitored and were tested for AI. On March 9th, 2012 a new AI outbreak was detected in a turkey farm in Moshav Holit (Beer-Sheva area in southern Israel). The farm has two turkey houses that contain 40,000 12-week-old turkeys. Out of the total, 19,000 contaminated birds were detected, 10,000 were found dead and another 9,000 with very high morbidity were destroyed by the Israeli Veterinary Services, the rest were also destroyed. All the farms surrounding the second infected site and within a 10 km radius, are being monitored and tested for AI; no new AI outbreaks have been detected. Up until today, no AI human cases have been reported in these areas. Almost all the cases of H5N1 reported Israel have occurred during the month of March. This is mainly due to the migrating wild birds and

the colder weather.

Annex 1: AI Sites in Israel

